
~~HOSTAGE AND BARRICADED SUSPECT~~

Hostage and Barricaded Suspect

8.02.01

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish protocols for conducting hostage and barricaded suspect operations, and to establish guidelines for the duties of officers, ~~supervisor and commanders.~~ supervisors and superior officers. The San Francisco Police Department's highest priority remains safeguarding the life, dignity and liberty of all persons. The Department is committed to accomplishing this mission by using communication and de-escalation principles, whenever feasible, before resorting to force. (See definition of DE-ESCALATION DGO 5.01(I)(C).)

8.02.02

DEFINITIONS

Hostage Incident: A hostage incident is a situation where a suspect holds another person against his/her will and where the suspect would generally be in violation of 236 PC (False Imprisonment).

Barricaded Suspect Incident: A barricaded suspect incident is a situation where a ~~criminal person~~, intent upon evading arrest, takes up a defensive position armed with a gun, explosive, or a weapon capable of harming others and presents a deadly hazard to arresting officers.

Critical Incident: Any incident with a life-threatening situation, a defined terrain objective and requiring a coordinated tactical response should be declared as a critical incident. Procedures and guidelines for requesting the Tactical Unit/SWAT Team should be followed.

DE-ESCALATION. Officers shall, when feasible, employ de-escalation techniques to decrease the likelihood of the need to use force during an incident and to increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance.

8.02.03

POLICY

HOSTAGE INCIDENTS: In hostage situations, the SFPD considers the lives of

~~hostages, civilians, and all parties~~ involved ~~officers~~ to be of the utmost importance and, whenever possible, the SFPD strives to peacefully resolve hostage incidents through communication. If communications fail, the SFPD is prepared and trained to use alternative methods to resolve the incident and the safe release of the hostage(s). **Due to the unique nature of hostage incidents, the Tactical Commander will have command authority over all tactical operations until the incident is resolved.** ~~The Operational Commander will have control of the outer perimeter, media information, and other logistics.~~

BARRICADED SUSPECT INCIDENTS: In barricaded suspect incidents, it shall be the policy of the SFPD to consider the lives of ~~innocent civilians and officers~~ all parties involved to be of the utmost importance. The SFPD, whenever possible, strives to peacefully resolve barricaded suspect incidents through communication, ~~but still maintain the ability.~~ If communications fail, the SFPD is prepared and trained to use alternative methods to resolve the incident.

The ~~Operational~~ Incident Commander will have command authority for and responsibility for all Hostage and Barricaded Suspect Incidents until the incident is resolved, or a transition of command has occurred.

NEGOTIATION POLICY: The Hostage/Crisis Negotiations Team will evaluate ~~all~~ available information about ~~the suspect~~ all parties and the situation, and will advise the ~~Incident and Tactical Commander~~ Commanders. Hostage/Crisis negotiators may engage in negotiations with the suspect, but deliveries or exchanges are subject to the approval of the ~~Tactical Incident~~ Commander. Hostage/Crisis negotiators will not independently make any concessions. The SFPD, whenever possible, should attempt to peacefully resolve the incident through ~~communication~~ negotiations.

8.02.04 PROCEDURES

SERGEANT / OFFICERS DUTIES: When confronted with a hostage or barricaded suspect incident, follow these procedures:

1. PERIMETER. Begin to establish an inner perimeter of the location, which shall be treated as a crime scene.
2. COMMUNICATIONS. If possible, attempt to communicate with the suspect to establish that he / she is still inside and make all attempts to seek a peaceful resolution.
3. EVALUATION. Request that your Lieutenant immediately respond to the scene. If the Lieutenant is not available, request that the District Captain or Night Captain respond.

COMMAND POST.

4. Establish an Incident Command Post and notify DEM of its location and safe avenue of approach.
- ~~4.5.~~ NOTIFICATION. Notify the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and Department Operations Center (DOC) via police radio or telephone of the situation.
6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. Assess need for additional resources such as Mental Health Clinicians Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), Tactical Unit, Specialists, HNT, and interpreter / bilingual Officer if subject is LEP.
7. SUPERVISORS. Create a plan to best achieve the mission and present to Incident Commander for approval. Assign specific roles to officers and when personnel allows, assign only singular responsibilities to officers to avoid splitting of attention or duties.
- ~~2. EVALUATION. Request that your field supervisor and the District Captain or Night Captain respond immediately to the scene. If a Captain is not available, request that a Lieutenant respond.~~
- ~~3. PERIMETER. Begin to establish an inner perimeter of the location until relieved by the Specialist Team. After inner perimeter has been contained, an outer perimeter should be established.~~
- ~~4. COMMAND POST. Establish a Command Post and notify DEM of its location and safe avenue of approach.~~

DISTRICT CAPTAIN OR LIEUTENANT DUTIES:

1. EVALUATE. After arriving at the scene, evaluate the situation, confirm that a hostage or barricaded suspect situation exists, and make proper notifications (see DGO 8.01, Critical Incident Notification). If the criteria for a critical incident is met, advise DEM that the situation has been declared a critical incident.
- ~~2. COMMAND. During barricaded suspect incidents, assume command of the Incident Command Post and the responsibility as the Operational Commander. During Hostage Incidents, assume overall command until relieved by the Tactical Commander who will take over Tactical Operations. Assume overall command and responsibility of incident until the incident is resolved or a transition of command has occurred.~~
- ~~2.3.~~ INCIDENT COMMANDER: Provide a mission, assign specific duties to Supervisors, approve plans, and communicate needs to best achieve the mission.
- ~~3.4.~~ SPECIALIZED UNITS: Contact DOC and request Specialist Team, Hostage/Crisis Negotiations Team, Investigator(s) ~~and~~, Tactical Unit, ~~and any other applicable additional resources.~~
- ~~4.5.~~ NOTIFICATION: Personally contact the Commander of the Field Operations Bureau or, if applicable, the Night Captain. Ensure that DOC has been notified.
- ~~5.6.~~ PERIMETER: Establish ~~Ensure that~~ an inner perimeter of the location was established by patrol officers, until relieved by the Specialist Team. After inner perimeter has been contained, an outer perimeter should be established.

COMMAND POSTSPOST:

~~As the situation develops and various specialized units arrive on scene, three separate command posts must be established. The Incident Command Post is the location on scene from which all incident planning is directed. There may also be other satellite support areas such as a Tactical Staging Area and Negotiations Operations Center (HCNT). The Incident and Tactical Commanders will determine the location of these best locations for the command posts. A post and support areas and a system of communication between all three must areas shall be established.~~

- ~~1. OPERATIONAL COMMAND POST / INCIDENT COMMAND POST. The Operational Command Post will be the source of all command authority for Barricaded Suspect Incidents and authority for outer perimeter, media information, and other logistics for the incident.~~
- ~~2. HOSTAGE/CRISIS NEGOTIATION COMMAND POST. The Hostage/Crisis Negotiations Command Post reports directly the Tactical Commander. It is responsible for establishing contact with the suspect and will be the exclusive source of negotiation with the suspect.~~
- ~~3. TACTICAL COMMAND POST. The Tactical Command Post reports directly to the Operational Commander for Barricaded Suspect incidents and has overall command authority of all tactical operations during Hostage Incidents. The Tactical Command Post maintains constant contact with the Hostage/Crisis Negotiations Command Post. It is responsible for developing tactical plans that will gain advantage over the suspect and executing these plans.~~

MEDIA:

Media access decisions are the responsibility of the Incident Commander. Under most circumstances, the crime scene and accompanying command post will be closed to the media. The Incident Commander should always assume that a barricaded subject or hostage taker has access to live reporting, and the media should be staged accordingly. Assign a Public Information Officer or police supervisor at the scene to provide timely and updated information to the media.

References

DGO 8.01 Critical Incident Evaluation & Notification

DGO 5.01 Use of Force

